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ACTION P-01

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O 261354Z JUL 94
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1146
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN FULL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 004898

BRASILIA FOR U/S TARNOFF

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PREL, AR, UN

SUBJECT: U/S TARNOFF ASSURES ARGENTINE PRESIDENT MENEM
- OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ANTITERRORISM INITIATIVE
- IN SECURITY COUNCIL

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. UNDERSECRETARY PETER TARNOFF TOLD ARGENTINE PRESIDENT
CARLOS MENEM THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT AN ARGENTINE
GOVERNMENT ANTI-TERRORISM INITIATIVE IN THE UN SECURITY
COUNCIL. MENEM'S REQUEST FOR SUPPORT CAME DURING
TARNOFF'S JULY 25 CONSULTATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES ON NEXT
STEPS IN HAITI (SEPTTEL) AND IN THE WAKE OF THE JULY 18

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BOMBING OF ARGENTINA'S JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA).

3. SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN BUENOS AIRES, THE
UNDERSECRETARY VISITED THE SITE OF THE JULY 18 BOMBING
OF THE AMIA BUILDING WHERE AN ESTIMATED ONE HUNDRED
PEOPLE DIED. THERE HE MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE U.S
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (IRT) SENT TO ASSIST THE
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ATTACK.

4. TARNOFF BEGAN HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MENEM BY
OFFERING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CONDOLENCES. HE TOLD

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MENEM THAT HE HAD VISITED THE AMIA BOMBING SITE AND SAID THAT NO PHOTOGRAPHS COULD EVER CONVEY THE EXTENT OF THE DESTRUCTION. HE TOLD MENEM THAT THE U.S., A STRONG OPPONENT AND FREQUENT TARGET OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, WOULD SUPPORT AN ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ANTI-TERRORISM INITIATIVE IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE NOTED THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO UN MISSIONS IN NEW YORK AND SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT COORDINATION ON THE EFFORT WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY.

5. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FERNANDO PETRELLA EARLIER TOLD TARNOFF THAT ARGENTINA WILL SEEK A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO "EXPOSE" INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM FOLLOWING THE AMIA BOMBING. HE SAID ARGENTINA IS ALSO CONSULTING WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED MEETING. HE SAID ARGENTINA'S PRIMARY GOAL IS NOT TO PROMPT A RESOLUTION OR OTHER HIGH-LEVEL ACTION, BUT TO TO PRESENT THE ISSUE IN A BROAD PUBLIC FORUM AND REAFFIRM VIEWS.

6. UNDERSECRETARY TARNOFF DID NOT SEE THIS MESSAGE
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BEFORE TRANSMISSION.

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